



Central South Dakota Outdoor Report

Wildlife Division – Region 2



Brule/Buffalo Counties

Diana Landegent



Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below

Lake Francis is currently open due to the nice weather lately. Fishermen have been catching nice sized walleyes from 15” to occasionally 20”. Fishermen have reported fishing with a gig and minnow in water 20’ to 10’ from Crow Creek down to the mouth of the White River. Some fishermen have been using plugs and have been successful. Fishermen have reported fishing to be slow lately.

The boat ramps in the Chamberlain area are open. The boat ramp at Elm Creek is in, but the water levels are low which restricts the use of the boat ramp.

The fish cleaning stations are closed until the nice weather stays for good. The minimum length restriction is 15 inches with one walleye over 20 inches. The daily possession limit is 4 walleyes and 8 walleyes possession.

The area between the Interstate Bridge and Railroad Bridge known as the dredge hole is now closed until April 30th.

REMINDER: Purchase your 2015 fishing license. The 2014 fishing license expired January 31st.

Get out and enjoy the nice weather!



Hunting Report:

Canada goose season closed February 15th.

The light goose conservation order opened statewide February 14 and closes May 3rd. This season includes snows, blue and Ross’ geese. Canada geese, white-fronted geese or any other goose species cannot be taken. Snow geese stuck around for a couple days last week, but no reports of snows geese have been reported in the area lately.

Archery turkey season opens April 4th – May 17th. Prairie turkey season opens April 11th through May 17th. There are approximately 87 leftover turkey tags for Brule County.

A Huntsafe class is scheduled for April 10th and 11th in Chamberlain. Both days are required to successfully complete the class to receive a Huntsafe card. Or if the class is completed online, the field day is Saturday the 11th in the afternoon. Please contact the Chamberlain office if you plan on attending the field day only.

Students must register online at: <https://gfp.sd.gov/outdoor-learning/hunter/education/ClassList.aspx>

Campbell County

Doug DeLaRoi



Fishing Report: *See Missouri River report below*

Shore fishing activity for Northern Pike with anglers having good success. Small lakes have had no use. Ice is off of Lake Oahe.



Hunting Report:

No Report

Corson/Dewey Counties

Shawn Madison:



Fishing Report:

Pudwell Dam: Good fish populations including several year classes of walleye, largemouth bass, crappie, and perch. Fishing activity has been low.

Morristown East: No activity but stocking efforts past two years has been successful for largemouth and crappies. Fish size is small. Some northern pike.

Morristown West: No activity. perch stockings have been successful ranging from 8-10 inches.

Trail City Dam: Little to no activity and a lot of small northern pike showed up in surveys.

Little Moreau #1: Activity low. Not much biting.

Little Moreau #2: Catching nice size rainbow trout on lures and corn with salmon eggs.

Isabel Lake: Some activity. Largemouth bass have been biting. Nice population of bluegill, some large being caught.

Eagle Butte Dam: No activity. Year classes of bluegill look very good ranging from 6-8 inches. Bass numbers are very good as well as perch



Hunting Report:

All seasons are closed in the area. Spring turkey will open in a few weeks. Turkey numbers are still in the area but a small increase over last year. Get permission from the landowner before hunting.

Charles Mix/Douglas Counties

Jeff Martin



Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below

Fish bite continues to be slow but constant. Fish seem to be moving up in to shallower water. Some reports of anglers having success in as shallow as 14ft. Shore fisherman are now beginning to catch fish as well. The spawn should begin very soon and then casting a jig and minnow into the shallows should be an effective presentation.



Hunting Report:

No snow geese in the area. Crows are currently abundant. Turkey season is right around the corner.

Gregory County

Hans Walleser



Fishing Report:

Boat fishing has slowed down below Fort Randall Dam and Fort Thompson. Slow presentations have been producing the best results. Water temperatures are still very cold, keeping the fish lethargic. Try slowly dragging a jig and minnow. Walleye minimum size limit is 15 inches and only 1 fish allowed over 20 inches. Daily limit is 4 and possession limit is 8.

Any questions or concerns may be directed to Conservation Officer Hans Walleser at 605-775-2475 or PO Box 433 Burke, SD 57523. Have fun. Be safe.



Hunting Report:

As of March 9, there were 180 leftover turkey tags for Gregory County. First come first serve. Apply online.

Hyde/Hand Counties

Cory Flor



Fishing Report: *See Missouri River report below*

The docks have been put back in the water at area lakes and are ready to use.



Hunting Report:

Check GFP website for upcoming application deadlines.

Hughes County

John Murphy



Fishing Report:

Fishing on Lake Sharpe has been slow to fair at West Bend, Antelope Creek area, Fort George, Bridges and Stilling Basin. On some nice days people are catching a few walleyes. Northern Fishing has been decent in the back of bays on Lake Oahe, some up to 20 lbs.



Hunting Report:

Light Goose Conservation Order is open but have not seen any light geese in area.

Jones County

Brian Ridgway



Fishing Report: *See Missouri River Report below*

Fishing on Lake Francis Case has been hit or miss. Shore anglers are experiencing moderate success with crappie rigs and minnows. Anglers in boats are slow jigging minnows and jigs. Some are pulling plugs with lead core on the bottom.

Reminder that the minimum length limits on walleye, sauger and their hybrids is 15 inches. There is a large age class of 14 $\frac{3}{4}$ " walleye this year. These fish are to be returned to the water unharmed immediately after the catch.



Hunting Report:

No Report

Lyman County

Brian Ridgway



Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below

Fishing on Lake Francis Case has been hit or miss. Shore anglers are experiencing moderate success with crappie rigs and minnows. Anglers in boats are slow jigging minnows and jigs. Some are pulling plugs with lead core on the bottom.

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Hunting Report:

No Report

Potter County

Brad Saltsman



Fishing Report: See Missouri River report below:

Potts Dam – no fishing activity. Poor ice conditions

Lake Hurley – no fishing activity. Poor ice conditions

Simon Dam – no fishing activity. Poor ice conditions

Missouri River – The ice is deteriorating rapidly. Anglers who dare go on are catching some northern in shallow waters. Anglers are also starting to fish the open pockets of water around the shoreline for northern.



Hunting Report:

Snow geese – there are no concentrations of snow geese in Potter or Walworth counties.

Stanley County

Josh Thompson



Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below.

Twin Dams – Little activity observed.

Hayes Lake – Little activity observed.

Ft. Pierre Nat. Grasslands – Little activity observed.

Lake Oahe – Little fishing activity observed.

Lake Sharpe – Fishing has slowed. Fishermen have been catching some walleye, but struggling to find keeper-size fish.



Hunting Report:

Light Goose: No activity observed.

For any further information, Game, Fish & Parks hunting and fishing handbooks are available at local licensing agents; or you can visit the SD Game, Fish & Parks website at www.gfp.sd.gov.

Sully County

Andy Schmahl



Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below.

No Report



Hunting Report:

No Report

Tripp/Todd/Mellette Counties

Chris Dekker



Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below

Stock dams are starting to produce some good opportunities.



Hunting Report:

No real opportunities right now

Walworth County

Doug DeLaRoi/Brad Saltsman



Fishing Report: *See Missouri River report below*

Shore fishing activity for Northern Pike with anglers having good success. Small lakes have had no use. Ice is off of Lake Oahe.



Hunting Report:

No Report

Missouri River report:

Lake Oahe and Lake Sharpe

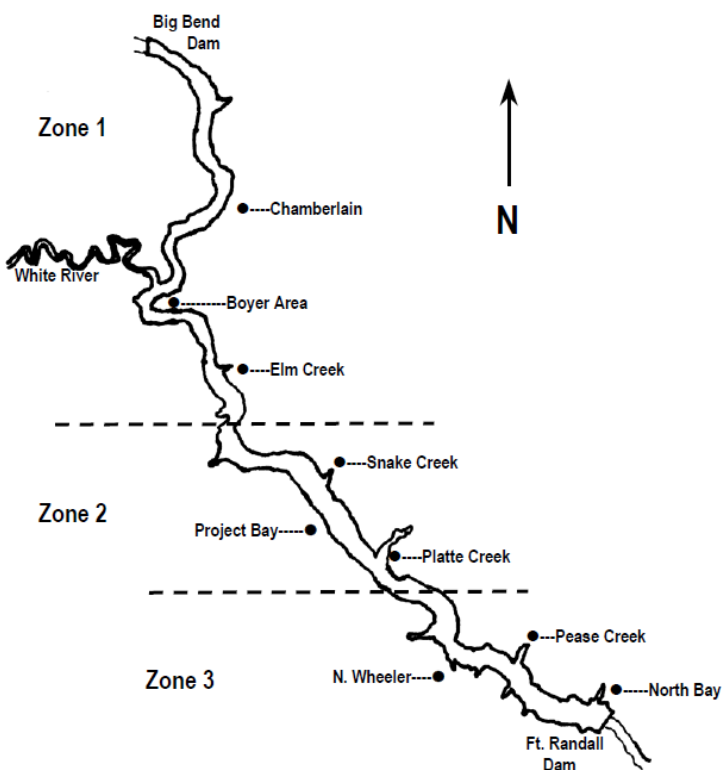
Kyle Potter

Lake Oahe

No Report

Lake Sharpe

No Report



Lake Francis Case

Gary Knecht

Zone 1

Activity in the upper third of the Lake Francis has increased. Shore anglers are catching a few fish around Chamberlain. Boat anglers are having some success in the White River area.

SIZE RESTRICTION - There is a 15 inch minimum length limit for walleye/sauger and only one walleye/sauger may be kept over 20 inches.

CLOSED AREA - The area between the railroad bridge and the I-90 bridge in Brule and Lyman counties is closed to fishing from Dec 1 through April 30.

Zone 2 and 3 – Fishing activity has increased slightly with boat anglers catching a few fish.